

BLAKE LAKE

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BUGLE

SPRING 2017

Spring Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017

New location! Georgetown Lutheran Church,
877 190th Ave./County Road G, Balsam Lake, WI 54810

8:30-9:00 am Donuts/yoghurt/fruit • mini-lake fair • door prizes

9:00-11:00 am Meeting

11:00-11:15 am Special Meeting (see “Announcements” below)

AGENDA (with flexibility)

Call to order, approval of amended minutes

Treasurer’s Report

Guest Presentation & Dam Update

Adam Elliott, Co-Chair, and Dam Engineer, Larry Gotham P. E., R.L.S., Morgan & Parmley, Ltd., Rusk Surveying – 30 min.

Old Business

Committee Reports

1. Lake Plan Update (Shelley Rodriguez). 5 min.
2. WI Lakes Convention (J. Mitchell, M. Rogge). 5 min.
3. AIS/Clean Boats Clean Waters (Peggy Lauritsen) 5 min.
4. APM Harvesting (Jim Maxwell) 5 min.
5. EPP/AIS/HL Grants Update (Sam Weber). 5 min.
6. Healthy Lakes Program Update/ managing runoff: (Peggy Lauritsen). 5 min.
7. Communications (Peggy Lauritsen). 5 min.

New Business

Announcements

May 20 — 11:00am Special Meeting, after Spring Meeting

Notice is hereby given pursuant to WI § 33.305 that a Special Meeting of the Blake Lake P&R District will be held on Saturday, May 20, at 11:00 AM for the purpose of taking required action for borrowing funds to cover dam expenses under WI § 33.31 (1) (3) as presented to the District by our Dam Engineer and the BLPRD Board in the preceding Spring Meeting at 9:00 AM, which falls outside of the date parameters established by the WI Legislature to conduct such Lake District business. Agenda for said meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order/Notice of Meeting/Roll Call
2. Consideration and Approval of borrowing funds to cover dam expenses.
3. Adjourn

August 19 — Annual Meeting, 8am Breakfast & Lake Fair, 9am Meeting (3rd Saturday in August)

July 4 — Boat Parade, 4pm

Dam Reconstruction Update

Q1: Where are we at with the dam project?

A: Over the winter, our engineering firm (Morgan & Parmley) worked diligently with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to finalize a plan to reconstruct the Blake Lake Dam in such a way that meets a 100 year flood event and appropriate for our lake. On March 16, 2017, the DNR gave us final approval for the dam. The final plan accepted technically considers our dam a “large dam” with a height exceeding 6 feet. We are now proceeding with steps toward completing the project.

Q2: With the new plan, what are the estimated total costs for the dam project?

A: According to our engineering firm, the estimated costs are \$247,000, which includes all costs incurred to date. They advised that these costs could vary by 10% of this estimate. We will not be able to finalize this cost until bids are received.

Q3: What are the next steps and estimated timeline that need to be taken to complete the dam project?

A: According to our engineering firm, here are the next steps (expected to be completed in 2017):

1. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers: Right now, we are waiting on final approval from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, which takes place after the DNR plan was approved. We are expecting this approval any day.
2. Bidding Documents: We have authorized construction and have directed Morgan & Parmley to prepare the bidding documents.
3. Bidding Process: Morgan & Parmley will now complete the bidding documents, begin advertising and receiving bids. The lowest cost responsible bidder will be awarded the contract.
4. Construction: Upon contract signing and a pre-construction conference, construction will begin.
5. Completion: Project completion and certification to the DNR is expected in the fall of 2017.

Q4: Where are we at on financing?

A: The Blake Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District (BLPRD) originally applied for a \$150,000 loan based on initial cost estimates. This loan was taken in August 2015 when it was believed that the project would be completed in 2016. It is a 5-year loan with a 3% interest rate, and we can pay the loan off early if desired. The total finance charge is approximately \$12,000.

At the August, 2016 Annual Meeting, our project engineer Larry Gotham described how the dam would likely be larger than originally thought and that costs could be \$225,000. Given this information, a motion was made/carried to increase our ability to borrow from \$150,000 to \$250,000.

Continued

Dam reconstruction update continued

We have now made two payments on this 5-year loan. In addition, we have incurred approximately \$30,000 in costs for legal fees, survey and engineering work, permits, etc. District members will note the additional line item for loan repayment on their Real Estate Property Tax Bill for 2016. Given the existing loan and costs, we made our first assessment for the dam to lake district members in January 2017. At this point, the board is considering options to finance the increased cost of the dam.

Q5: How were properties assessed?

A: The BLPRD polled the district members at the 2015 annual meeting and considered various methods to assess properties. The final method chosen breaks down as follows:

- The total estimated cost of the dam was considered. All eligible properties in the lake district are considered
- Properties are designated as either shoreline properties or non-shoreline properties
- Sixty percent of the overall cost is assigned to every property (shoreline or non-shoreline)
- The remaining cost is assessed to shoreline properties based on lineal feet of shoreline

Q6: How are these costs being assessed?

A: Each loan will be paid back over 5 years, so you will pay four more installments on our current \$150,000 loan, which are shown as an separate line item on your real estate tax statement and are payable in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. Additional financing will be assessed as needed and repaid in the same manner as this current loan.

Q7: Could the costs be more than the estimated \$250,000?

A: This is possible. Right now, our cost estimates are based on our engineer's experience with similar dam projects and an initial estimate from a construction company. We will not have final cost estimates until all bids are received.

Q8: Will there be a footbridge near the dam?

A: It is undecided. At this time, there is a pending sale of the land on the south side of the dam with new ownership involved. We have a permit approved for a future footbridge and a recommended location.

Q9: What are the anticipated water levels this Summer before the reconstructed dam is complete?

A: Because Big Blake Lake is on a flowage, the water levels can fluctuate based on many factors, including Spring run-offs, overall precipitation and other factors. At the end of last Summer, the water levels were manageable with the existing dam. We are working closely with the DNR to do what we can to maintain the existing levels until the dam project is complete.

Q10: If I am selling my property, what do I need to disclose to a potential buyer?

A: Please consult your realtor or real estate professional about what you need to disclose. The board is doing our best to be transparent and update all members about the costs, timelines, risks and process as we move forward.

Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 20, 2016 | Amended 4-15-17

The BLPRD Annual Meeting at Georgetown Lutheran Church was called to order by Co-Chair Sam Rivers Weber at 9:08 am.

Board Members present: Sam Rivers Weber/Co-Chair, Adam Elliott/ Co-Chair, Shelley Rodriguez/ Commissioner, Jen Wistrциll/ Treasurer, and Peggy Lauritsen/Secretary, Communications.

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Elliott expressed thanks to the Georgetown Lutheran Church for offering the use of the site at no charge. We are confirmed for future meetings at this site. Donations to the church welcomed. After board introductions, Co-Chair Elliott proposed to approve agenda with flexibility. Unanimous motion carries.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Spring Meeting were printed in the Bugle newsletter, mailed to members and are also located on our new website. Copies of the minutes were also available for view at the meeting. A motion was made to approve minutes by Jack Belisle second by Jim Filkins. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: (Commissioner Wistrциll)

Jen Wistrциll reported account balances as of 31-July-2016 as follows: Big Blake Lake (BBL) checking \$11,776.72, Dam checking \$6,958.41, BBL Money Market \$142,665.68, Savings \$5.00. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Ford Elliott, second by Vicky Dorner. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Guest Presentation: New Lake Management Plan (Commissioner Rodriguez) with Q&A by Katelin Anderson, water quality specialist, Polk County Land & Water Resources Dept. A committee of 13 district members met over the year to establish a new lake management plan. As of 2016, Blake Lake is on the impaired waters list, due to high levels of phosphorus – our goal is to get us off the list. She reviewed the visions and guiding principles of the plan. There will be many opportunities to volunteer to be part of our new lake plan. Committees include invasive species prevention, education, multi-generational engagement, native plantings of shoreline, watershed influence and fisheries. The final plan will be posted on the website at blakelake.org.

Old Business

1) Dam Update (Co-Chair Elliott, guest presenter Larry Gotham, Morgan Parmley, dam engineer) The dam design plan is completed and it is submitted to the DNR. Larry Gotham, project dam engineer, provided history on the dam reconstruction to date, outlined a breakdown of the total project estimate and described the land transfer timing. Land was transferred last winter. His initial thought was the project might be \$75,000 for a small dam, then, with further testing, it became a large dam, estimated at \$225,000. Recent water flow and other tests have revealed that a larger dam is needed to hold a larger capacity. The DNR goal is to have a dam that would pass a 100-year storm event. The design plan proposes to have a dam that runs the full length of the channel. The dam design is a rip rap rock chute dam. Diameter of the stone and mix of that stone should be about 3 feet thick. Steel sheet piling is used for a vertical wall to keep the water surface at a constant elevation. There would also be a draw down structure to allow lowering of the lake a couple of feet if needed. Larry presented the engineering drawings in his slides. Location of the foot bridge would need to be down farther on the west side, and cannot be placed over, or on top of the dam. The old

bridge would be salvaged. If submitted with the dam, it is likely the dam would include the bridge permit in the dam permit.

If done separately then we would need to submit a separate request for the bridge. The plan for the larger dam will require more land than originally acquired. The land survey is done, verbal agreement from landowners obtained. Next steps are to get this additional deeded land legal. He reviewed costs and new budget for the enlarged project scope and size. Completion of the dam would be the middle of May 2017, earliest due to road restrictions. If the DNR does not approve our design plan, and a new type of dam is requested, the cost could be even higher. A motion was made by Jim Filkins to increase the \$175,000 loan fund approval to \$250,000 for the board to obtain loan funds for the dam project, motion seconded by Tom Borden. Motion approved.

2) Buoy placements, slow-no-wake zone (Co-Chairs Weber and Elliott). Options reviewed. Options are remove buoys or keep buoys with options for new placements (A, B or C in slides). Discussion ensued regarding why they were placed and what they were for. Motion made by John Walter, seconded by Bruce Peterson. Vote 45 to 29 – buoys removed.

Committee Reports

1) AIS / Clean Boats Clean Waters (Commissioner Lauritsen). We had a 23% increase in volunteers who attended our seasonal kickoff at the landing on June 11. More kids joined as volunteers this year! Our district participated in the DNR Landing Blitz in July and June Drain Campaign. We are 58% complete on the hours at the landing for boat inspections and AIS education. We have 63 hours to go to complete our season.

2) APM Harvey Report (APM Coordinator Jim Maxwell). Maxwell reported activity, expenses and increase of weed harvesting this season. He shared thoughts on why there are more loads, possibly low snow cover on lake ice, lower water level from dam and more large boat motors active on the lake. This year we harvested 158 loads of curly leaf and 33 loads of coontail for a total of 191 loads harvested YTD compared to 171 loads YTD in 2015, 36 loads in 2014 and 21 loads in 2013.

3) EPP/AIS/HL Grants Update (Co-Chair Weber). Weber reported that the Education, Prevention, and Planning Grant cycle ends this year (2016). The results of the Sociological Survey of Lake Residents in 2014, the Water Sampling and Citizen Lake Monitoring from 2013-2016, and all of the work that Jeremy and Katelin have done through Polk Co LWRD — including the results of the Core Sample analysis - have been combined to form our new Lake Management Plan, which will provide the foundation for future lake management activities and grant opportunities.

New Business

1) Healthy Lakes/managing runoff, reducing phosphorus (Commissioner Lauritsen). A primary goal of this program is to get the phosphorus level reduced on Blake Lake to get off the Impaired Waters List. Our lake is not as healthy as it should be. Lauritsen reviewed 5 practices of the Healthy Lakes Program, Fish Sticks, Native Plantings, Rock Infiltration, Diversion and Rain Gardens. She explained the DNR grant available to cover 75% of costs to implement and the deadline to apply is Feb. 1. Five district members have signed up to have their property be part of the grant application, more welcomed. There will be site visits in September. More information is available at healthylakeswi.com.

2) WI Lakes Partnership Convention is April 5-7, 2017, looking for delegates to attend.

Annual Business

1) Approval of 2017 annual budget and review of audit results (Treasurer Wistrick). No major findings in the audit.

2) Elections — Vote: Election of 1 new commissioner
3-year term currently held by Adam Elliott. No write ins. Unanimous vote for Adam Elliott to serve a 2nd 3-year term.

3) Communications (Commissioner Lauritsen): Our website has been live for 6 months providing relevant information to district members such as meeting minutes for the past 8 years and newsletters for the past 3 years. A Water Safety page was added in July. We will continue to provide multi-channel communications such as our newsletter 2 times per year, emails monthly (7 seasonal months), provide helpful displays and literature at Spring and Annual meetings 2 times per year and post on our Facebook page.

4) Recognition of volunteers: Special recognition was given to 3 volunteers who created our website, Larry Bresina (site host and developer, donated 60 hours), Dave Rogge (developer and site maintenance, donated 120 hours) and Peggy Lauritsen (project manager and content uploads). Shelley Rodriguez thanked 13 members who served on the lake planning committee, (Gerry & Roxanne Smith, Jack Belisle, Don Craft, Sue Budd, Peggy & Jim Mitchell, Jim & Joan Maxwell, Peggy Lauritsen, Mike Rogge, Sam Rivers Weber). Peggy Lauritsen thanked the Clean Boats volunteers who serve every season at the boat landings to prevent invasive species.

Announcements

May 20, 2017 — Spring Meeting, 8:30 am-noon
(3rd Saturday in May)

August 19, 2017 — Annual Meeting, 8:00am to noon,
(3rd Saturday in August)

July 4, 2017 — Boat Parade (July 4th is on Tuesday), 4pm

BLPRD 2017 Annual Budget: Vote: approval of annual budget. The budget has not been increased over the past 10 years, despite increased costs for weed harvesting operations and communications.

Category	Budget
APM Coordinator	\$2500
WLP Convention	\$1500
Dues	\$475
Harvey Pay/Exp	\$8500
Insurance	\$4500
Administration	\$4525
TOTAL	\$22,000

Motion for approval of new budget by Sue Ogren, 2nd by Gail Rustad. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sheila Monson, 2nd by Paul Rodriguez. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

A total of 85 people attended the Annual Meeting.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Jen Wistrick, Treasurer and Peggy Lauritsen, Secretary.

Updated Lake Plan

The 2016 Lake Management Plan was approved in August 2016 by the Blake Lake P&R District and by the Blake Lake P&R District Board of Directors in February 2017. The plan was then delivered by the Polk Country Land and Water Resources Department to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to receive final approval. We expect to have their approval this Spring.

Please take a few moments to revisit the Lake Management Plan presentation that was delivered during the 2016 annual fall meeting. It highlights our goals and objectives as well as defines the volunteer teams needed to bring our plan to fruition. The 2016 Lake Management Plan Presentation can be found at blakelake.org/records. Or, you can view the full Lake Management Plan PDF here:

<https://tinyurl.com/l73s97k>. Watch for more information on the volunteer opportunities at the 2017 Spring Meeting on May 20th.

Be Part of the Solution — Make a Difference — Be a Volunteer

2016 Lake Management Plan Volunteer Team Opportunities

- Water quality team
 - Land acquisition subteam
 - Healthy Lakes subteam
- Fish and wildlife team
 - Information and education team
 - Aquatic invasive species (AIS) team — CBCW
 - Aquatic plants team
 - Grant applications and monitoring



Healthy Lakes Program Advances

On April 27 our district was approved to receive a \$22,000 grant from the Wisconsin's Lake Protection Grant Program, Healthy Lakes! There are nine properties on Blake Lake who will be a part of this grant to reduce phosphorus on our lake. We can apply annually for more properties to be added to new grants.

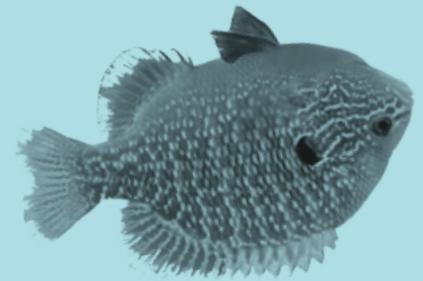
Blake Lake was put on the state impaired waters list in 2016 due to the high level of phosphorus that results in dangerous algae blooms. Let's take action to fight phosphorus! At our Spring and Annual Meetings we will continue to have displays and materials about Healthy Lakes practices. Be a part of our grant application for 2018! Learn more about what can be done on your property for very little cost.

The five Healthy Lakes practices are: native plantings (buffer areas), rain gardens (holding ponds), fish sticks (habitat for young fish), driveway and other water diversion and rock trenches.

Need more details? Visit healthylakeswi.com where the best practices are explained and downloads are available.

District Members: This newsletter has the spring meeting agenda on the cover. You will not be receiving a POST CARD announcing the spring meeting.

SPRING MEETING — mini lake fair and door prizes!
8:30-9:00 am Donuts/yoghurt/fruit | 9:00-11:00 am Meeting | 11:00-11:15 am Special Meeting (see inside)



1988 S. Baker Road
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

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